

*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest friend of truth.*

MISSOURI SENATE JEFFERSON CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2009

Senate Takes Lead on Securing Federal Stimulus Dollars ***New Committee will Oversee Bringing Federal Taxpayer Dollars to Missouri***

JEFFERSON CITY –The Missouri Senate demonstrated its commitment to oversight of securing federal stimulus money for programs to benefit Missourians when Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, today announced the creation of a special committee. The Senate Select Committee on Oversight of Federal Stimulus Plan will hold its first meeting this Wednesday, January 28, in Senate Committee Room 1 at 2 p.m.

Shields named Sen. Scott Rupp, R-Wentzville, as chair and Sen. Rita Heard Days, D-St. Louis, as vice-chair. The committee has invited Governor Jay Nixon, Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder, and all members of Missouri's Congressional delegation to speak before the committee to share information and strategies for securing Missouri's fair share of the anticipated nearly \$1 Trillion federal stimulus plan.

Shields said he created the committee so the Legislature can act quickly to adapt state laws that may currently hinder the state's ability to gain preference to receive grants through the federal plan.

"We want to make sure Missourians get their federal tax dollars invested back into programs and jobs that can improve our daily lives, rather than going to pay for our neighboring states," he said. "The Obama administration has made it clear they will award the funding to states that can invest in and complete projects quickly and, as lawmakers, we must be ready to adapt laws and policies to make sure Missourians get their fair share of federal tax dollars being reinvested in them."

Shields said the Senate will also work with the National Conference of State Legislatures to learn more information and track actions by state legislatures across the nation.

"By acting quickly and overseeing the securing of federal funding, we can better work through our challenges to sustain economic prosperity and a high quality of life for Missourians for years to come," he said.

Shields named 13 senators to the new committee, stating each was chosen because of their knowledge and their district's relationship representing the thirteen areas of federal government. The members are: Sen. Chuck Purgason, R-Caulfield, for agriculture; Sen. Eric Schimtt, R-Glendale, for commerce; Sen. David Pearce, R-Warrensburg, for defense; Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, for education; Sen. LuAnn Ridgeway, R-Clay County, for energy; Sen. Tom Dempsey, R-St. Charles, for health; Sen. Rita HeardDays for HUD; Sen. Scott T. Rupp for the interior; Sen. Jack Goodman, R-Mt. Vernon, for justice; Sen. Victor Callahan, D-Independence, for labor; Sen. Jolie Justus, D-Kansas City, for science; Sen. Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, for transportation; and Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, for veterans' affairs.

To learn more about the Select Committee on Oversight of Federal Stimulus Plan, its members, and hearing schedule, visit www.senate.mo.gov.

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